

### CLAIMS WITH PRESENT STATUS

1. (Previously Amended) An additive for conglomerate building materials, selected from gypsum and mortar, that comprises a solid mineral component comprised of clay, and at least a modified natural gum the additive being free of cellulose derivatives, wherein the solid mineral component is a rheological grade sepiolite.

2. (Previously amended) An additive according to claim 1 comprising  
20-75% by weight of the solid mineral component;  
25-80% by weight of the modified natural gum.

3. (Previously amended) An additive according to claim 1 comprising:  
35-60% by weight of the solid mineral component;  
40-65% by weight of the modified natural gum.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Amended) An additive according to claim 1, wherein the modified natural gum is at least one combination of at least two monosaccharides, glucose, mannose, galactose, and glucuronic acid, modified by etherification.

6. (Previously amended) an additive according to claim 5, wherein the combination of monosaccharides is etherified with an alkylene oxide selected from ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and butylene oxide.

7. (Previously Amended) An additive according to claim 5, wherein the combination of monosaccharides is a galactomanane.

8. (Previously Amended) An additive according to claim 1, wherein the modified natural gum is modified guar gum.

9. (Previously Amended) A filled composition of conglomerate building materials selected from among gypsum and special mortars, that comprises a fraction selected from among a cement fraction, a gypsum fraction, and an aggregate fraction, and 0.05-1.2% by weight of the additive defined in claim 1.

10. (Previously Amended) A filled composition according to claim 9 comprising 0.2%-0.9% by weight of the additive.

11. (Previously Amended) A method of using the additive of claim 1 as a component in a mortar, the method comprising adding the additive to the mortar.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants trust that this response is in full compliance with the requests and requirements imposed by the Communication, is believed to be in order and is hereby respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,



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